

**PATENT APPLICATION****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Confirmation: 2706

Tony A. CRANFORD

Art Unit: 3713

Serial No.: 09/977,282

Examiner: C. Marks

Filed: October 16, 2001

Atty. Dkt. No.: 026066-00003

For: BET THE HOUSE BLACKJACK

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Mr. Brian Hansen, hereby state and declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 1063 Quaker Street, Golden, Colorado 80407.
2. I completed a table game management course in 1999 at the University of Nevada/Reno. I have been employed since August 2001 by the Isle of Capri casino as their table games manager. Since 1989, I have been engaged in the gaming business mainly in the field of table games management. I have been responsible for setting up numerous new games and field testing them for the State at my casino. I have written internal controls, trained staff, and compiled operating rules for all of these games. I have also evaluated close to a hundred blackjack and poker games for possible use.

3. I am very familiar with the present invention, the above-identified application, the Office Action dated October 28, 2003, and the references cited therein.

4. I have read and understood the above-captioned application by Tony Cranford, including claims 2, 6, 9, 11-20, 22, 23, 25-29 and 33-35, contained therein ("the invention"). The subject matter therein falls within my area of expertise.

5. I have read and understood the cited reference U.S. Patent No. 6,450,500 to Miller. The subject matter therein falls within my area of expertise.

6. I have read and understood the cited reference U.S. Patent No. 5,772,211 to Nazarayan et al. The subject matter therein falls within my area of expertise.

7. My reading of Miller in view of Nazarayan is that these references do not teach or suggest to one skilled in the art, the auxiliary game claimed in the present invention. That is, combining the teachings of Miller with Nazarayan does not teach or suggest at least the features of selection of a dealer hand characteristic for the auxiliary game is received from each of the at least one player from which the selection to participate in the auxiliary game portion is optionally received from each of the at least one player; wherein a selection of a dealer hand characteristic for the auxiliary game is received from each of the at least one player from which the selection to participate in the auxiliary game portion is received, wherein the dealer hand characteristic is selected from a group consisting of at least two of the dealer hand being all red, the dealer hand

being all black, the dealer hand totaling an even number, the dealer hand totaling an odd number, the dealer hand consisting of two cards, the dealer hand consisting of three cards, the dealer hand consisting of four cards, the dealer's hand consisting of five cards, the dealer's hand consisting of six cards, as claimed in claim 14 nor similar features as claimed in the other claims.

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent(s) issuing therefrom.


Brian Hansen

2-26-04
(DATE)